

REMARKS

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration and further examination are requested.

Claims 5 and 22-24 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yonezawa, and claims 6-21 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

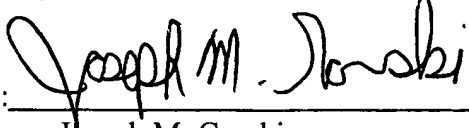
Accordingly, without acquiescing to the appropriateness of the prior art rejection issued by the Examiner, and solely to further advance prosecution of this application: claim 5 has been amended to include therein the subject matter of allowable claim 6; claims 7, 13 and 17 have been amended to depend from claim 5; claim 18 has been rewritten in independent form; and claims 6 and 22-24 have been cancelled.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the application is now in condition for allowance, with the allowed claims being 5 and 7-21, and an early Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

If after reviewing this Amendment, the Examiner believes that any issues remain which must be resolved before the application can be passed to issue, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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